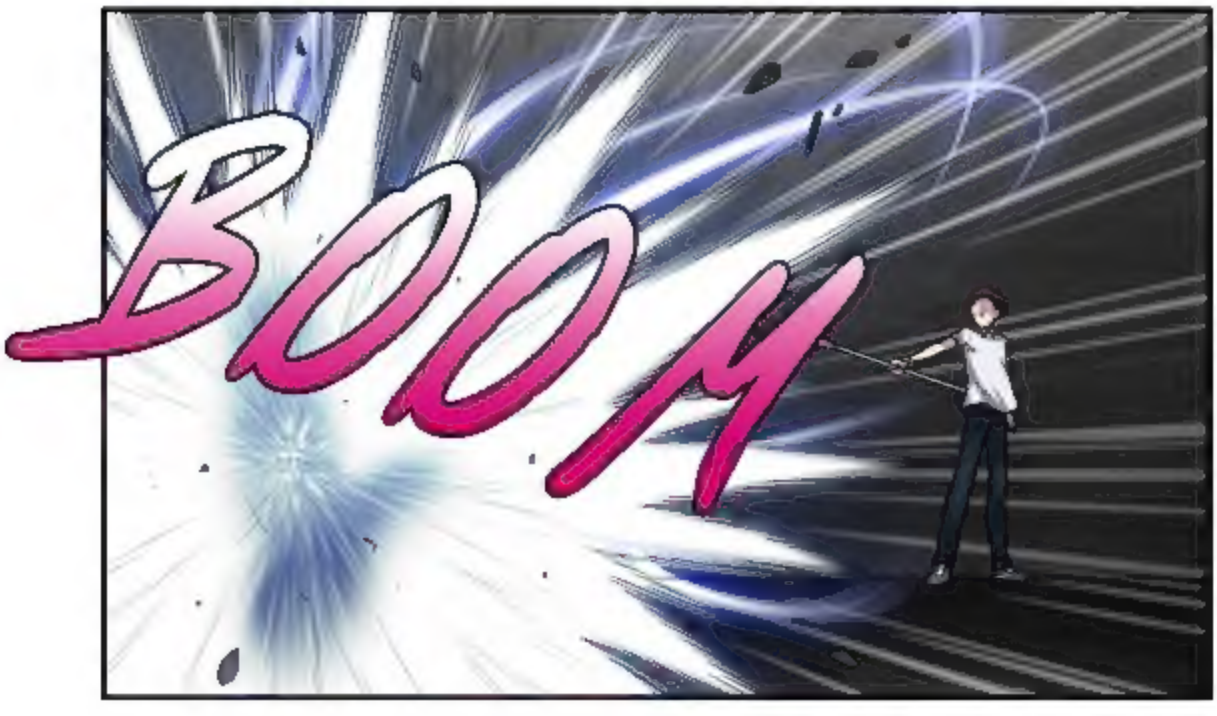
THE GAMER

STORY BY SANGYOUNG SEONG
ILLUST BY SANG-A

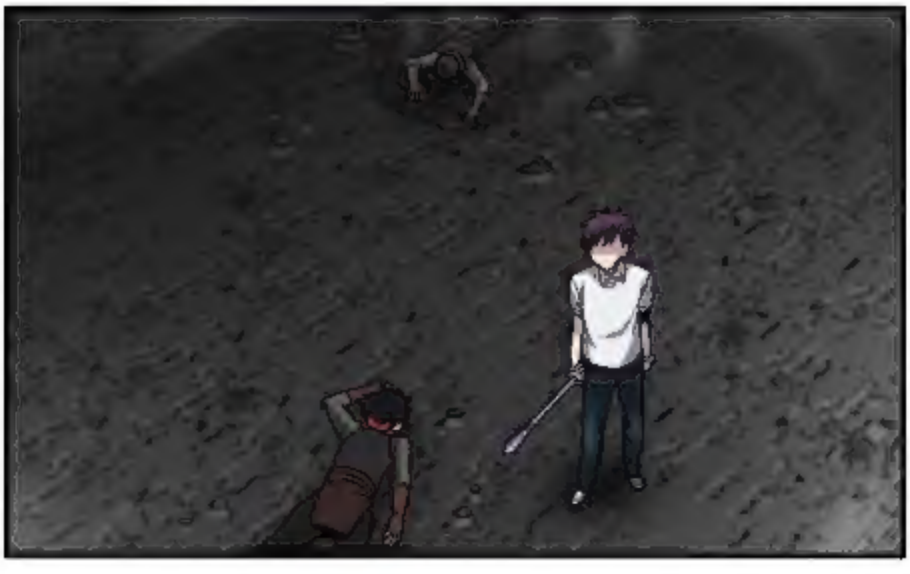
<DOUBT>

YOU LITTLE BASTARD...

YOUR FACE I....


BOOM

DING
YOU OBTAINED
63590 EXPERIENCE.



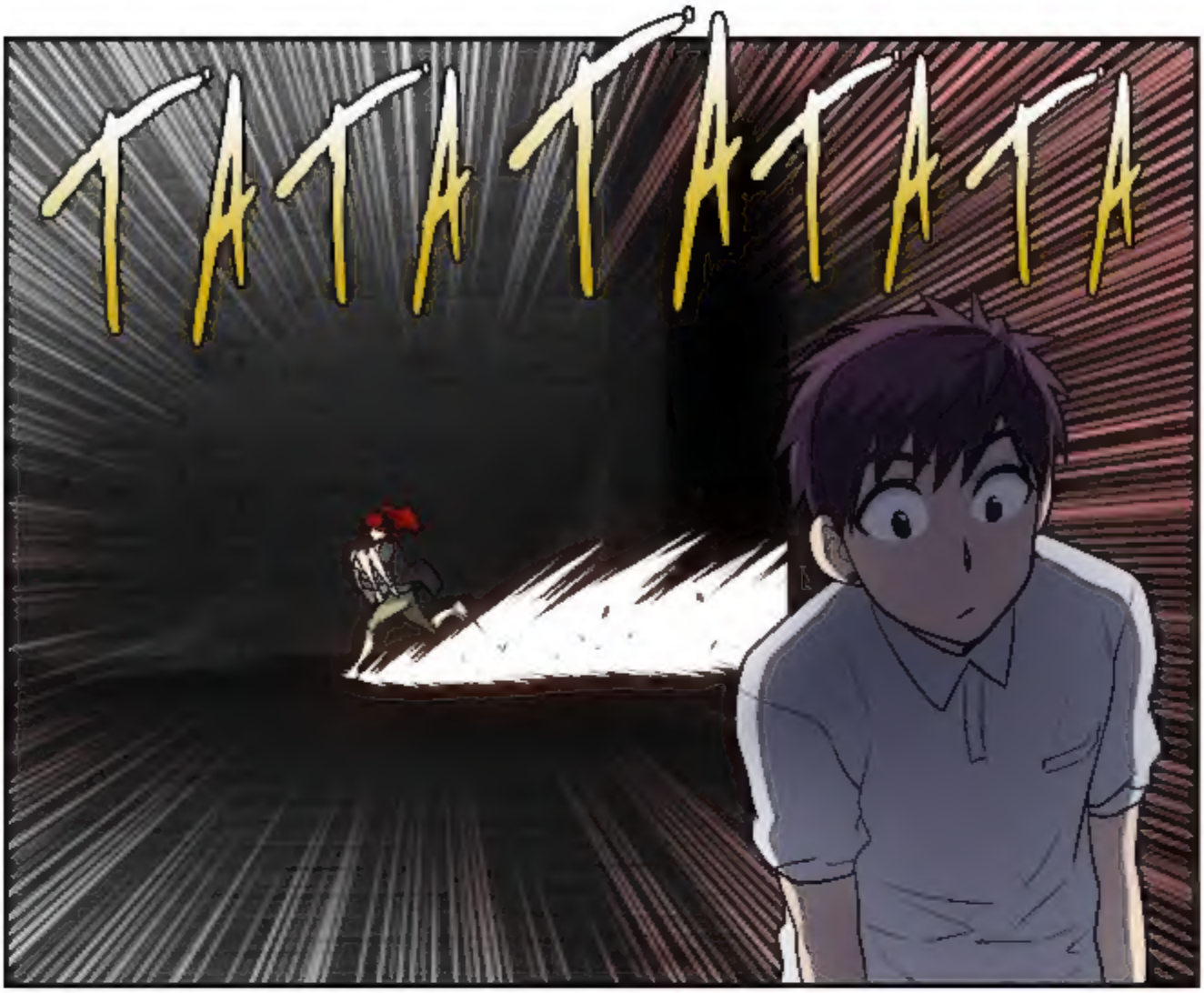
MAN...
LOOKS LIKE
THERE REALLY IS
SOMETHING WRONG
WITH THIS PLACE.

TURN
FLINCH

STEP
ARE YOU OKAY? I FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT IN FRONT OF YOU.
STEP
S-STAY AWAY!

YOU CAN LET YOUR GUARD DOWN. I'LL SET YOU FREE.

D-DON'T...


TATATATATA

YOU CAME.
JUMP

DID YOU GET RID OF THEM?

YEAH, ABOUT A MOMENT AGO.

NICE WORK.

HAHA...
I CAN'T GET USED TO THIS...

YOU HAVE TO.
IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE IN THE ABYSS.

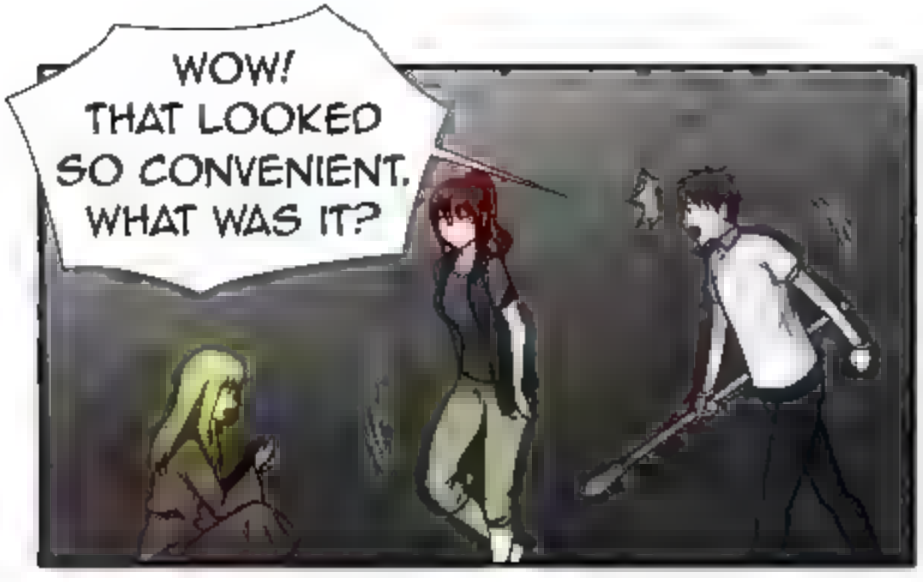
I-I GUESS SO.

YOU'LL SEE MUCH WORSE THINGS THAN THIS.
STUFF THAT MAKES KILLING A PERSON SEEM LIKE NOTHING...
COME TO THINK OF IT, JIHAN.
WHAT?
HAVE YOU TOLD HER MUCH ABOUT THE ABYSS?
NO. BUT I SHOULD.

BY THE WAY, CAN YOU COME AND UNTIE HER? IT WOULD SEEM A BIT STRANGE IF I DID IT.

SURE.
SSK

WHISH

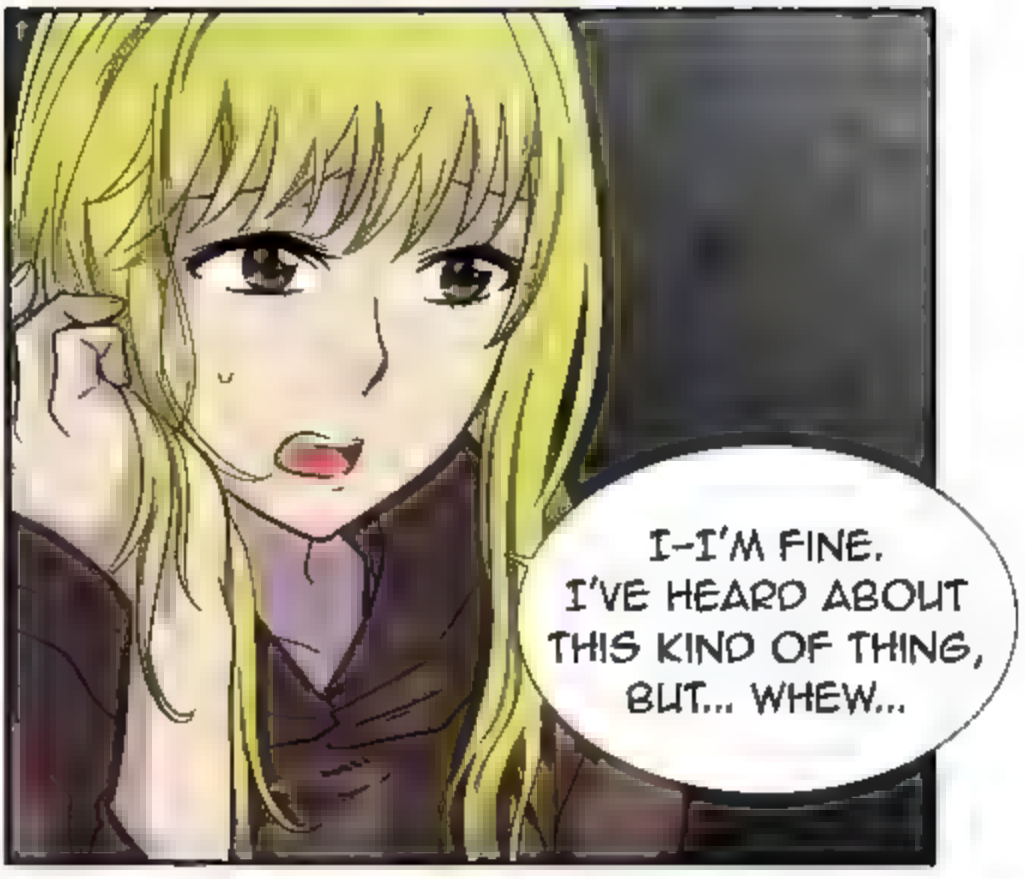

WOW!
THAT LOOKED
SO CONVENIENT.
WHAT WAS IT?

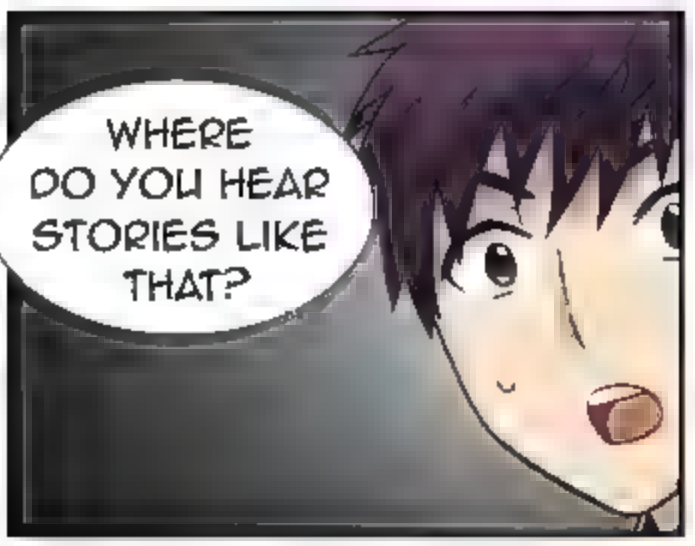
IT'S A SKILL CALLED 'BLADE PALMS.'
IT SURROUNDS YOUR HANDS WITH ENERGY AND CREATES AN AURA THAT YOU CAN USE LIKE A KNIFE.

THERE ARE SO MANY COOL SPELLS OUT THERE...
CAN YOU TEACH IT TO ME LATER?
OF COURSE.

SSSK
AH,
EXCUSE ME...!

T-THANK
YOU FOR
HELPING ME!
AH, SURE.
YOU ALMOST
WENT THROUGH
SOMETHING
TERRIBLE... ARE
YOU OKAY?


I-I'M FINE.
I'VE HEARD ABOUT
THIS KIND OF THING,
BUT... WHEW...


WHERE
DO YOU HEAR
STORIES LIKE
THAT?

IT'S A HOT TOPIC NOWADAYS IN THE LABYRINTH CAFE.
AH, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
THE LABYRINTH CAFE?

IS THAT SHORT FOR "GRAND LABYRINTH CAFE"?

PLUS,
THIS PERSON
IS SO CALM.

SHE'S THE
COMPLETE
OPPOSITE OF
PREZ.

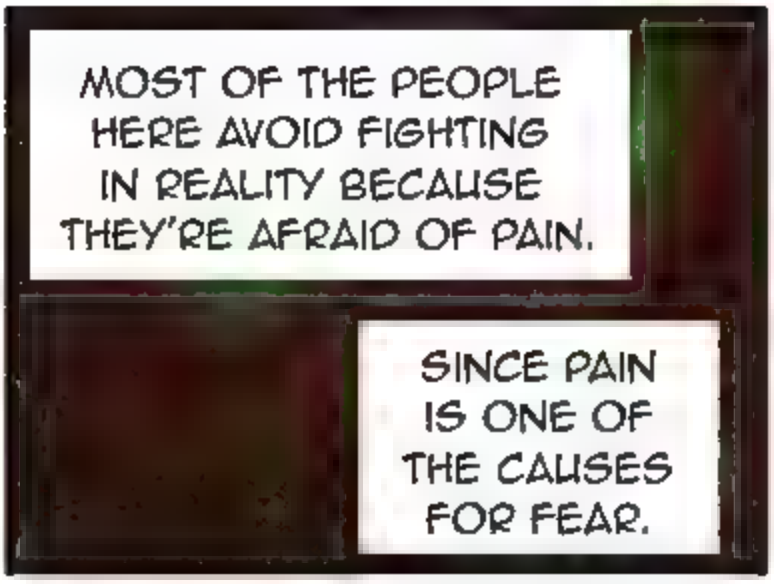
DO THESE
GUYS HAVE A SKILL
LIKE THE 'SPIRIT OF
THE GAMER' LIKE
ME?

THEN THAT MUST BE FROM THE INFLUENCE OF THIS GRAND LABYRINTH, TOO.

PAIN EXISTS IN THIS GRAND LABYRINTH.
YOU FEEL REAL PAIN.

THEY SAY THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY DIE.
BUT PEOPLE ARE FIGHTING EACH OTHER HERE WITHOUT HESITATION EVEN THOUGH PAIN EXISTS.
WHISH

THAT MAKES NO SENSE.


MOST OF THE PEOPLE HERE AVOID FIGHTING IN REALITY BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID OF PAIN.
SINCE PAIN IS ONE OF THE CAUSES FOR FEAR.

BUT WHY DOES EVERYONE IN HERE IS EAGER TO FIGHT?
THERE MUST BE A REASON.

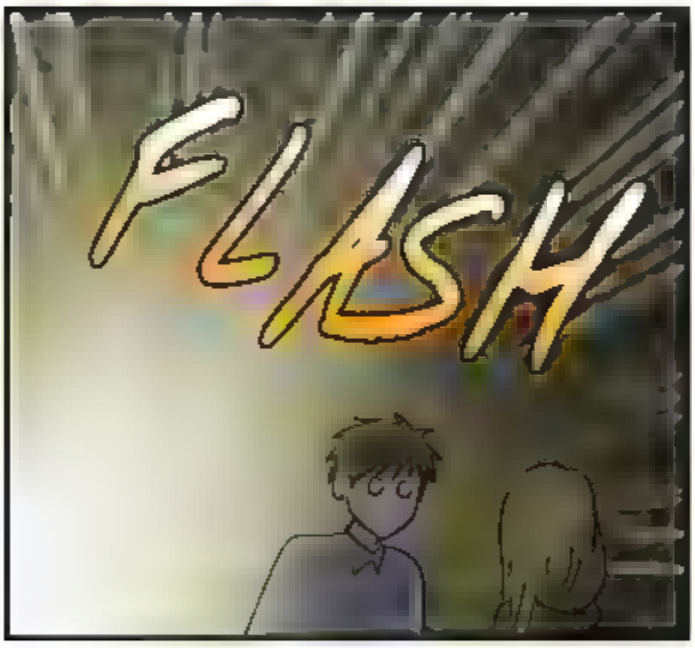
AH... IF YOU DON'T MIND, CAN YOU ADD ME TO YOUR PARTY?
MY PARTY MEMBERS ALL GOT DESTROYED.

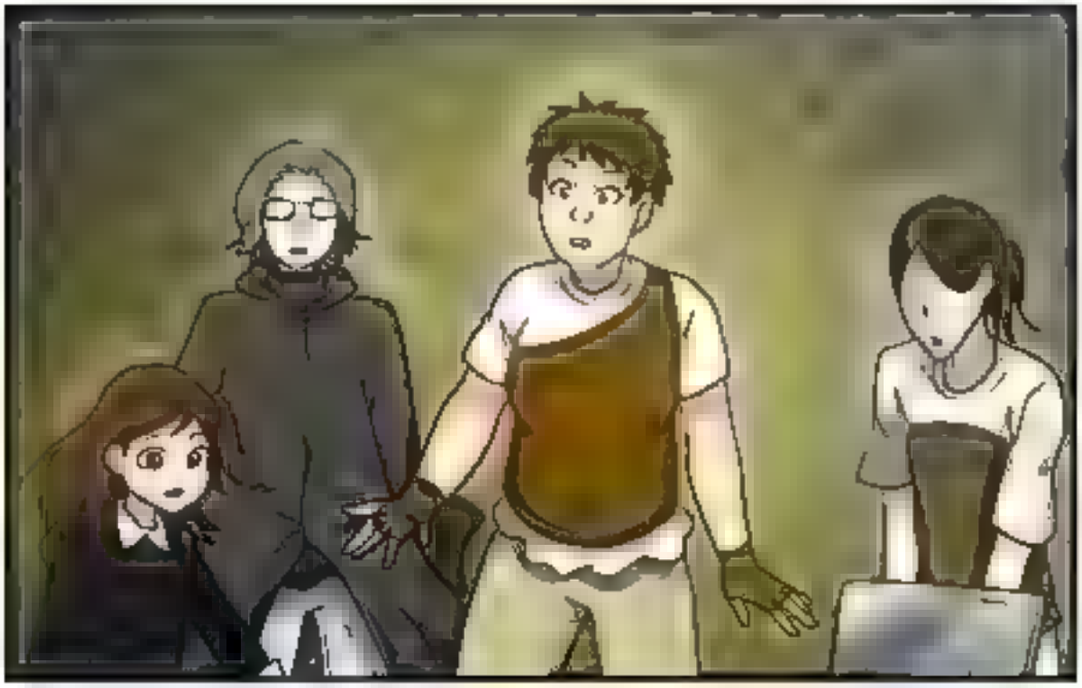
THEY'LL COME BACK IF YOU WAIT.
APPARENTLY THEY'RE HAVING AN EVENT WHERE YOU GET REVIVED IF YOU DIE.

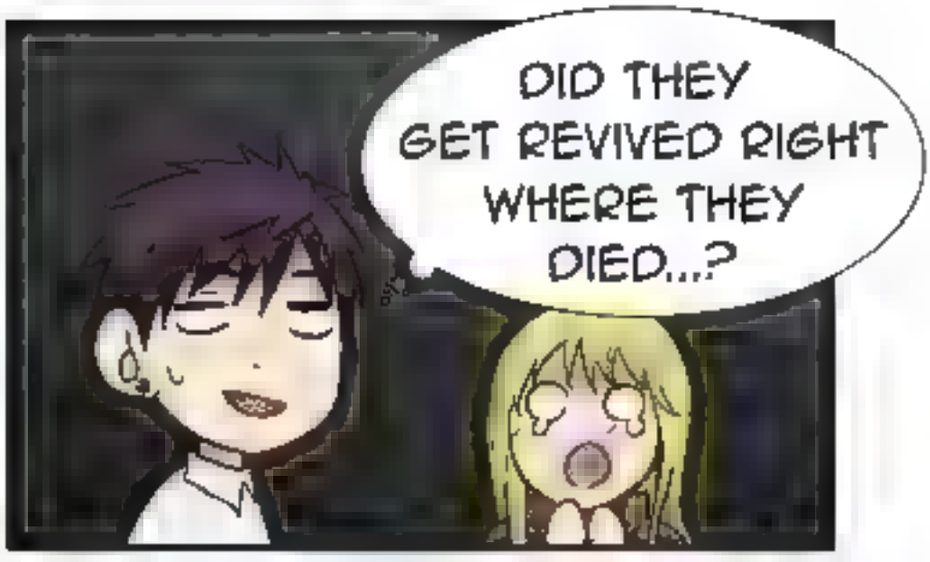
YOU MEAN THAT VIDEO BEFORE?
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY'LL BE REVIVED...

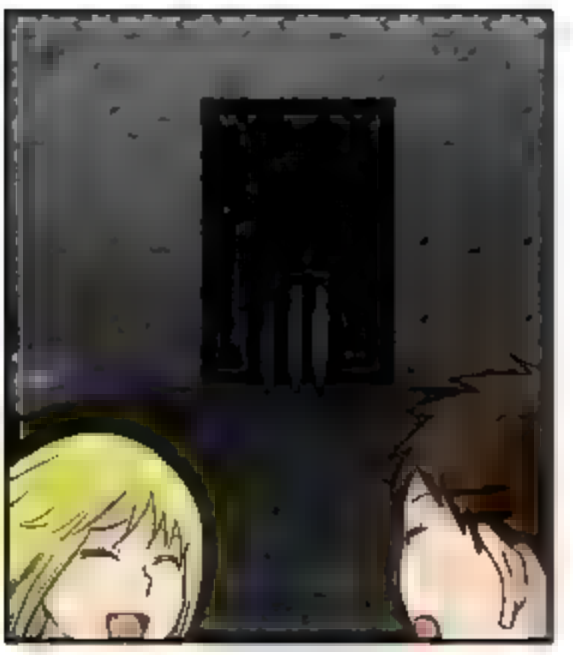
PLUS I'M AFRAID OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH PEOPLE LIKE THOSE GUYS BEFORE.

IT'S HARD TO SAY NO... SINCE THAT IS TRUE.

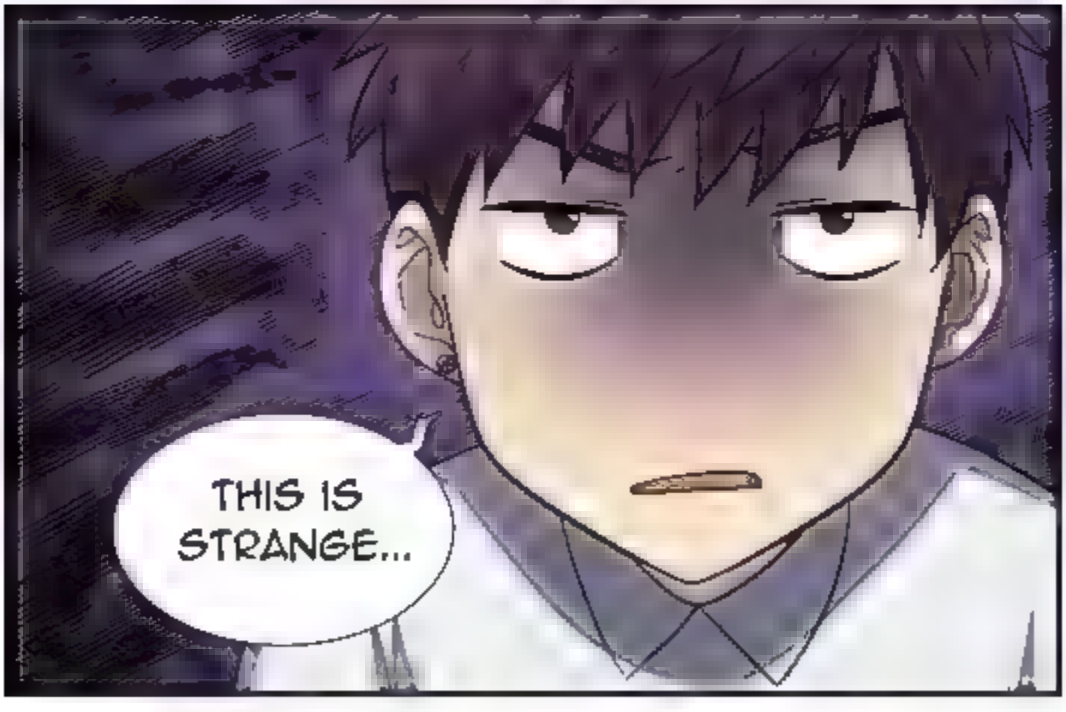

FLASH

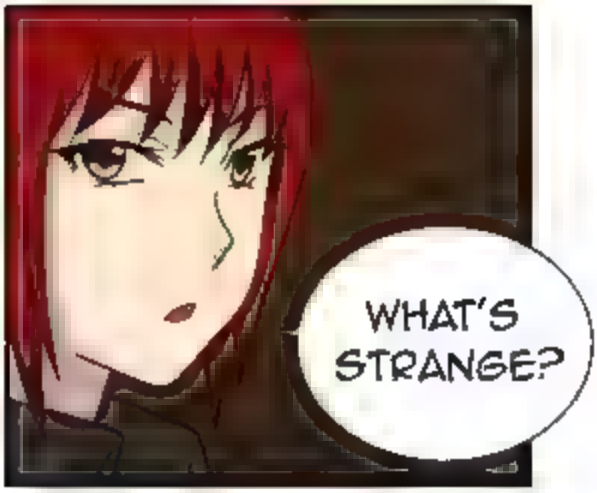



DID THEY GET REVIVED RIGHT WHERE THEY DIED...?

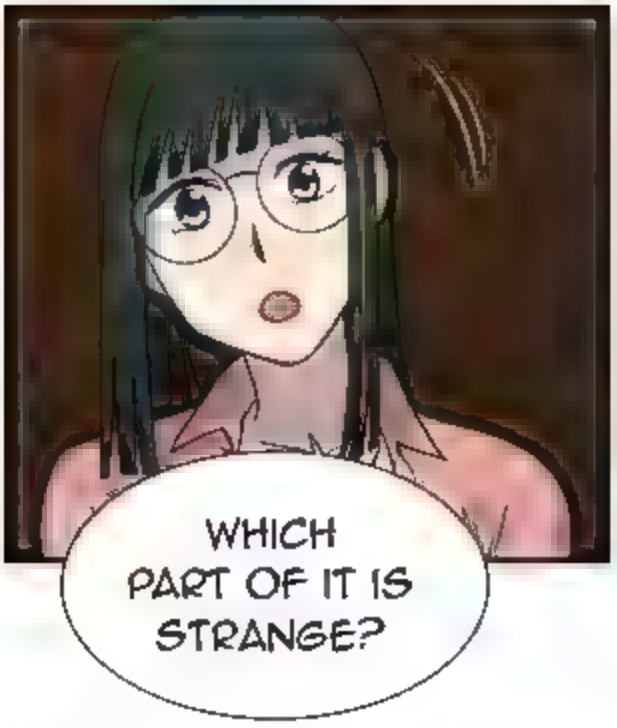


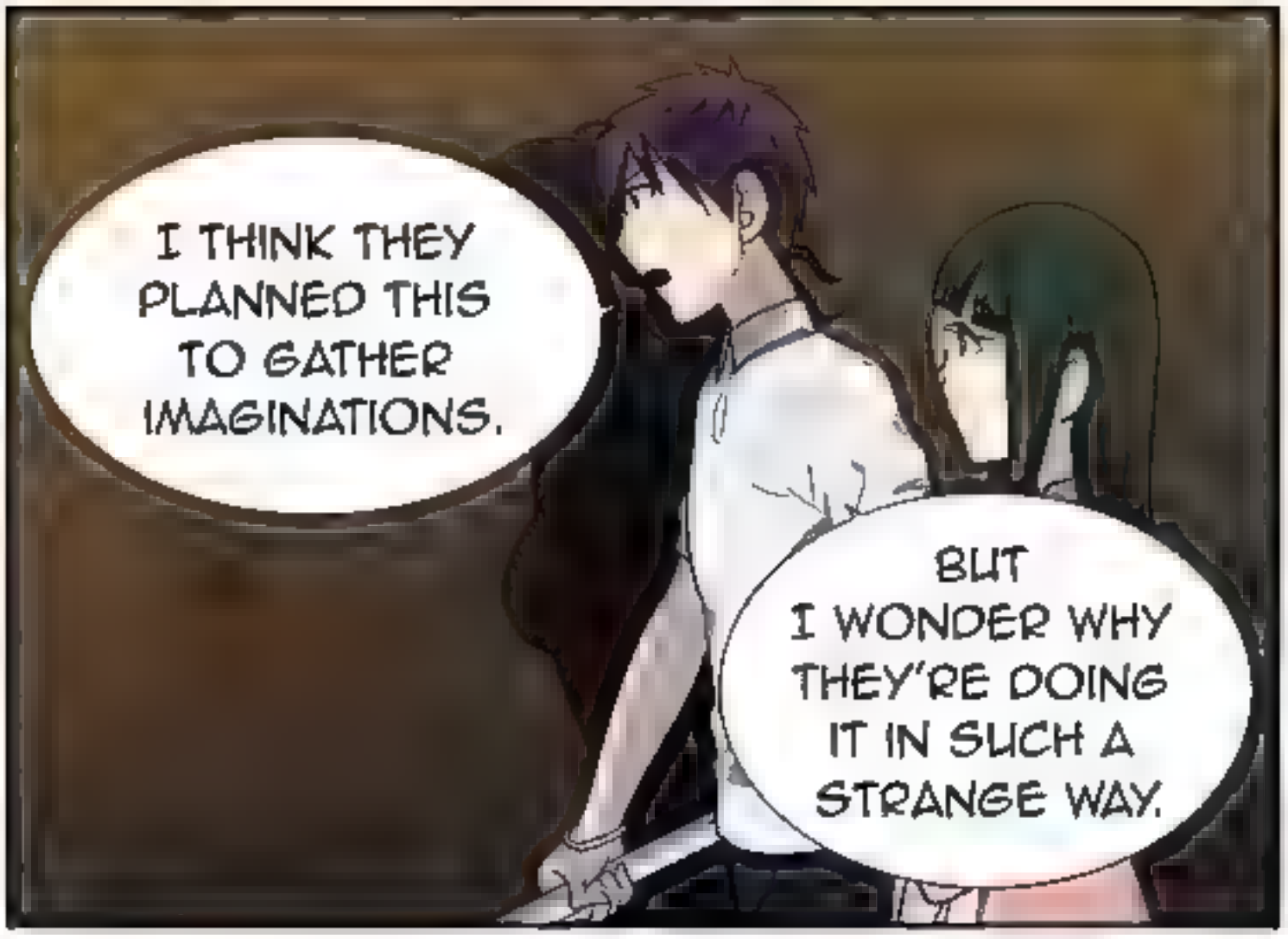
THE GAMER


THIS IS STRANGE...


WHAT'S STRANGE?

ALL OF THIS.


WHICH PART OF IT IS STRANGE?


I THINK THEY PLANNED THIS TO GATHER IMAGINATIONS.
BUT I WONDER WHY THEY'RE DOING IT IN SUCH A STRANGE WAY.

A STRANGE WAY?

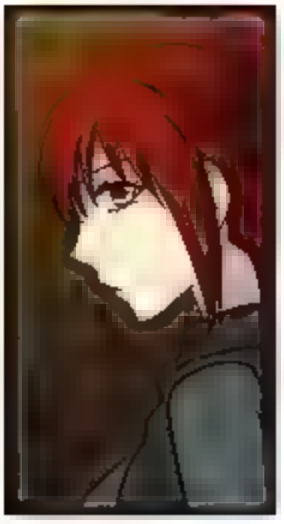
YEAH.
THE ABYSS IS KIDNAPPING ORDINARY PEOPLE.
THEY ONLY BRING THEIR MIND HERE TO IMPRISON IT IN THIS LABYRINTH AND MAKE THEM FIGHT. ISN'T THAT STRANGE?

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO KIDNAP AT LEAST MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE AND TURN THEM INTO RESOURCES.

HM?
WHY?

SINCE
THE DAN UI GUILD
WOULD DEFINITELY
FIND THEM.

HUH?



THE DAN HI GUILD ORIGINATED FROM THE CHEON BU CLAN.
I KNOW THAT.

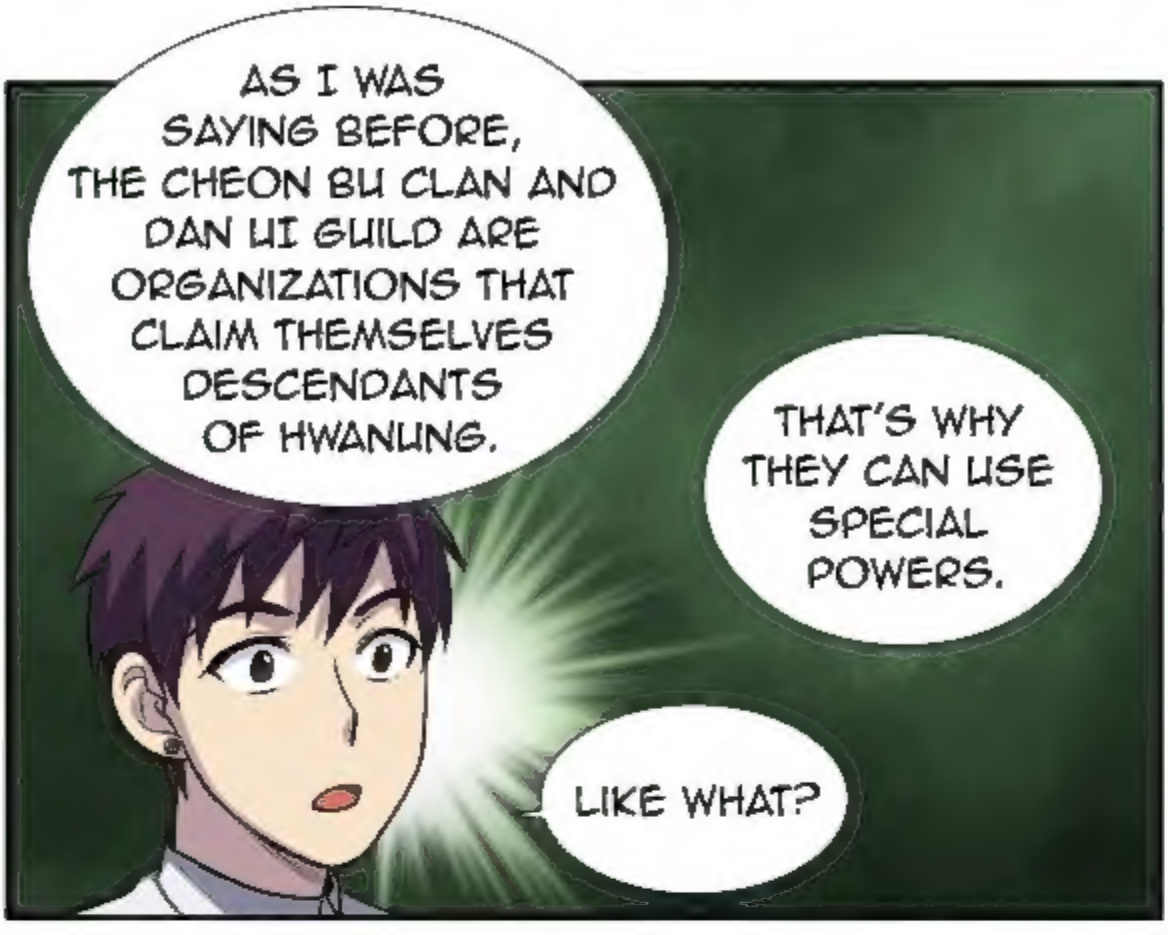
WHERE DID THE CHEON BU CLAN ORIGINATE?
UH... I HEARD IT WAS FROM HWANUNG.

THAT'S RIGHT.

THERE ARE TRIBAL GODS IN THE WORLD. DID YOU KNOW THAT?
NO, I DIDN'T.

WE KOREANS HAVE HWANUNG AND DANGUN.
IN CHINA, THERE'S NÜWA, HANWON, YUANSHI TIANZUN, AND SO ON.
JAPAN HAS GODS LIKE IZANAGI AND AMATERASU.

SO IT'S LIKE ODIN IN NORTHERN EUROPE...
THAT'S RIGHT.
BUT THEY COULD BE DIFFERENT FROM THE GODS PEOPLE USUALLY THINK OF.
O-OH YEAH?


AS I WAS SAYING BEFORE, THE CHEON BU CLAN AND DAN UI GUILD ARE ORGANIZATIONS THAT CLAIM THEMSELVES DESCENDANTS OF HWANUNG.
THAT'S WHY THEY CAN USE SPECIAL POWERS.
LIKE WHAT?

IF A HUNDRED KOREANS ARE HARMED BY SOME SPECIAL, NON-PHYSICAL POWER IN KOREA, THEY WILL KNOW RIGHT AWAY.

IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER IT'S AN ILLUSIONARY BARRIER OR AN INTERDIMENSIONAL REALM. THEY CAN ALWAYS TRACK IT.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THE 'PROTECTION OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE' IS, ONE OF THE DAN UI GUILD'S SPECIAL SKILLS.

WEBTOON
LINE Webtoon